

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
NS Entry of PCT/EP2003/012839

REMARKS

The specification has been amended in order to insert formal matter and correct obvious errors. An Abstract has been added in order to place the application in conformance with U.S. patent practice. The claims have been amended for purposes of clarity and to conform with U.S. patent practice. Figures 3-6 have been replaced in order to correct obvious errors therein. Hence, the amendments to the specification and claims, the addition of the Abstract and the replace of Figures 3-6 do not constitute new mater, and thus entry is respectfully requested.

Applicants would like to note that the underlining in the oligonucleotide primers is not an insertion of new matter, as the underlined portions of the primers were presented in specification as originally filed.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below listed number on any questions which might arise.

Respectfully submitted,



Gordon Kie
Registration No. 30,764

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE

23373

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: May 19, 2005